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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

(The size of books is given in inches to the nearest half inch.)

NORTH AMERICA

Historic New York during Two Centuries. xx and 470 pp. Maps, plans, ills., index. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1912(?). \$3.50. 9½ x 6½.

This is to be classed with the reprints rather than as a new edition of a work which has become standard in the last fifteen years and which of late has been somewhat difficult to procure. The publishers have taken advantage of improvements in paper whereby it is now possible to secure a light sheet with sufficient opacity to stand the double print. Thus the two former volumes are now very conveniently included in one set of covers. Owing to the lack of a firm editorial hand there is considerable duplication of material in these monographs; but where duplication exists the difference in interpretation of historical events is but slight. Making allowance for this defect, the work remains the most exhaustive and the most satisfactory study of the early period of New York and immediately adjacent Dutch settlements. WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

History of the Jews in America. From the Period of the Discovery of the New World to the Present Time. By Peter Wiernik. xxiv and 449 pp. Ills., index. Jewish Press Publishing Co., New York, 1912. \$1.50. 8½ x 6.

A serious and comprehensive study of Jewish life in the New World. It is written with admirable reserve and preserves a judicial spirit in setting forth the most trying experiences of the race in various countries.

The introduction has a sketch of the Jews as international traders in ancient and mediæval times and an account of the Spanish Jews as land owners. The seven parts of the book, embracing forty-four chapters, deal with various historical periods, beginning with the Spanish and Portuguese epoch and the share of the Jews in the discovery of America, and an account of persecutions under Spanish rule. Experiences under English and Dutch colonial rule follow, in North America, South America and the West Indies. Part III is given to the period of the American Revolution, and is succeeded by the German period of immigration, with new settlements in the Mississippi Valley, in Texas and on the Pacific Coast. The relations of Jews to President Lincoln are noted, and members of the race are recorded as having performed distinguished service on both sides of the great conflict.

The story is traced through the *post bellum* period, including organized activity by the Jews, their literary labors and our relations with Russia on the Jewish question. The present status of this people is discussed in several chapters on conditions at the opening of the twentieth century. The volume includes an interesting series of portraits of twenty-five distinguished representatives of the race.

A. P. BRIGHAM.

The Lakes-to-the-Gulf Deep Waterway. A Study of the Proposed Channel, Terminals, Water Craft, Freight Movement, and Rail and Boat Rates. By William Arthur Shelton. x and 133 pp. Map, index. Reprinted, with additions, from the *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 20, Nos. 6 and 7, 1912. \$1. 9 x 6.

This clear, concise presentation is timely. The "Lakes to the Gulf" enthusiasts are found in numbers in the Upper Mississippi Valley states, most of whom base their optimism upon the thread-worn statement that water transportation is cheaper than rail transportation. A cursory reading of this small book is sufficient to arouse a real consideration of the subject by any reader; a careful study of the matter presented must convince most people that the project, while mechanically feasible, is without much doubt economically impractical.